

OCA 88-2410
19 July 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

FROM:

Office of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: Parental and Medical Leave Act (S.2488)

1. It looks like we have lost the battle to have S.2488 amended to exempt the Agency from the reporting requirement to the Commission. You will recall that after conversations with the Office of Personnel and the Directorate of Operations we backed off trying to change the entitlement to leave and entitlement to the same job following leave because of the small class of Agency people affected and because we would have to go public with examples. Attached is a copy of all the changes we originally sought to the bill.

2. A week before Committee markup, Kris Iverson, a staff member from the Education and Human Resources Committee, agreed that she would persuade Senator Hatch to introduce an amendment which would have the effect of protecting classified information from disclosure to the Commission. I also talked with Britt Snider, SSCI Counsel, and to Larry Kettlewell, Senator Hatch's designee on the SSCI. Both agreed with our position, and Kettlewell indicated he would talk with Hatch's people on the Education and Human Resources Committee lending his and the Committee's support to our amendments.

3. None of the promises were acted on. Iverson reported, after the markup, that the Democrats would not tolerate an amendment for the Agency unless there could be a public discussion or unless we had reached an informal agreement with the Democratic Members. Kettlewell just failed to live up to his commitment. When I asked him why, he explained that after some additional thought and conversation with Britt Snider, they concluded that the reporting requirement was not that detrimental to our interests. This is the third time Snider has refused to act on our concerns about reporting personnel data to various external organizations.

4. The prospects for getting relief are dim at this point. Iverson says we will have to get the Democrats support before Hatch will be able to take any action on the Senate floor. This means we will have to convince Senator Dodd,

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Chairman and ranking Democrat on the Education and Human Resources Committee, ask Boren and [] to speak with Dodd and get Senator Metzenbaum (D,OH), a Member of the both the Intelligence Committee and the Education and Human Resources Committee, to support our position--a difficult task.

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5. After a meeting with John Helgerson, Director of Congressional Affairs, we decided the change sought does not merit this intensity of effort. We need to preserve our influence for legislation which would have a more serious and harmful effect on Agency interests.

6. There is the possibility that S. 2488 may never reach a Senate floor vote. It is strongly opposed by the business community. The House has failed to get the companion bill (H.R.925) up to a floor vote largely because of the concerns by private industry. The Administration strongly opposes it. Time is short--Congress hopes to adjourn by 8 October.

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Attachment:
As stated

cc: DDA
DD/CAP/OP
D/OCA
OCA/LD-- []
Comptroller
DA/MS

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